(b) whether permission from Government is compulsory to send minerals from one State to another;

(c) whether any request from the Government of Jharkhand or any other State has been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The export of iron ore with iron content up to 64% and Iron ore of Goa and Redi origin, irrespective of iron ore content, are free. Iron ore with iron content more than 64% is canalized through designated State Trading Enterprise, namely, MMTC Limited. Likewise, there are quantitative and qualitative restrictions on export of chrome ore and manganese ore.

(b) Movement of minerals outside the State is not prohibited and no permission is required from the Central Government for movement of minerals from one State to another.

(c) and (d) Government has not received any proposal in this regard.

Import duty on scrap steel

1954. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken up with the Ministry of Finance for reducing the import dutyfor scrap steel which is required for secondary steel markets;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereto;

(c) whether demand and production level has been assessed for the next decade;

(d) if so, the action plan initiated in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The customs duty on import of steel melting scrap is already nil.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) In the National Steel Policy (NSP) it has been envisaged that by 2019-20 the country would attain an indigenous steel production of 110 MT and a consumption level of 90 million MT.

In order to achieve this goal, the NSP seeks to remove the supply-side constraints to the growth of Indian steel industry in an open, globally integrated and competitive environment. The NSP seeks to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to move towards the long-term policy goal. On the demand side, the strategy would be to create incremental demand through promotional efforts, creation of awareness and strengthening the delivery chain, particularly in rural areas. On the supply side, the strategy would be to facilitate creation of additional capacity, remove procedural and policy bottlenecks in the availability of inputs such as iron ore and coal, make higher investments in R&D and encourage the creation of infrastructure such as roads, railways, and ports.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Iron ore trade with China

1955. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chinese delegation visited India in September, 2005 to enter into a long term pact on iron ore import;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a policy not to export iron ore but instead to export value added steel products;

(d) the final decision taken after the discussions with Chinese delegation; and

(e) whether it will adversely affect the home market?